

**1603 Pershing Avenue  
Erie, PA 16509**

January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my dismay that the judicial process may be impeded by nine of the eighteen plaintiff states in the Microsoft antitrust case. Last November, a settlement was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. The settlement is currently undergoing a period of review and unfortunately, the handful of states that wish to continue litigation have used this time to rally support for their side. I do not wish to see further action taken against Microsoft Corporation.

Microsoft agreed to a wide variety of terms under the settlement, some of which require change, some of which require concessions to its competitors. For example, Microsoft has agreed to reformat upcoming versions of Windows so that the operating system will be able to support non-Microsoft software. Additionally, Microsoft has agreed to provide parties acting under the terms of the settlement with a license to applicable intellectual property rights. I do not believe these terms are lenient for Microsoft. I think the settlement is thorough and fair.

Mr. Ashcroft, in good conscience I ask that you settle this case. It is not in the interest of the public, and quite honestly, the perfect solution is in the hands of the court right now. I urge you to support the settlement.

Sincerely,



Franz & Bernadette Zimmerman

cc: Senator Rick Santorum

